and Andhra Pradesh could greatly increase production and reduce pesticide use and thereby pollution; and

(c) whether similar technology has been developed by R&D units in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A bacterial gene active against some Lepidopterous pests has been incorporated in tobacco plant through genetic engineering mechanism. The pests feeding on leaves of such tobacco plants get paralysed and die. This work is under progress in the United States of America.

(b) It is too early to assess its influence under Indian conditions since the experiments are still inconclusive in U.S.A. itself.

(c) No, Sir.

Programme taken by KVK

3185. SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in the country for vocational training at grass-root level and if so, the details of the programmes;

(b) whether SC|ST and drop-outs are special target groups for this programme;

(c) whether the transfer of Lab to Land Technology Programme launched earlier is now being handled by KVK; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the slogan Lab to Land has caught the imagination of farmers and officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE): (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. Eighty-nine Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in the country for vocational training of the farmers, farm-women, young farmers and field level extension functionaries.

The KVKs are organising need-based training courses, both residential as well as in the villages for imparting technical literacy to the practising farmers and farm women. Annually about 6000 training courses are being organized benefitting over 1.5 lakh persons.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The KVKs are among the Institutions which are also implementing the lab-to-land Programme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Demonstration Projects

3186. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Demonstration Projects have been operating in 48 districts and holding thousands of demonstrations on fields and supporting Oilseed Technology Mission and If so, the achievements madt so far in increasing oilseeds productivity; and

(b) whether National Demonstration Projects have been evaluated every 5 years as per ICAR system and if so, what is the result of last assessments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Demonstration Project is operating in 48 Districts in the country and organising annually 4800 demonstrations on major cereal crops in the farmers' fields. These projects are also organising block demonstrations on oilseeds in

support of Oilseed Technology Mission. In Kharif 1986 and Rabi 1986-87, 343 block demonstrations were conducted showing increases in yield from 50 per cent to 300 depending upon varied field conditions.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Demonstrations Projects are reviewed every five years and the respective Districts are changed to new locations within the States. The last review was made in 1984-85 and 26 Districts which had completed 5 years duration were changed to new sites. The National Demonstrations Project was also evaluated in 1983-84 by the External Evaluation Committee, which appreciated the impacts of the project and also made a few suggestions for improvement:

(i) Keeping in view the importance of the demonstrations, the funds required for critical inputs may be revised and provided for laying out these demonstrations successfully.

(ii) There is a need for development of National Demonstrations project in the areas of Animal Science as well as in Horticulture;

(iii) The National Demonstrations Project should develop close linkage with existing Institutions and organisations engaged in extension programmes; and

(iv) Only these crops should be included in the National Demonstrations programme which are economically important for the area and for which high yielding technology has been established.

Technology Mission on Drainking Water

3187. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and related water management has emerged as a main thrust for supply of water to rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether special attention is being given to supply drinking water to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as per new 20-Point Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Supply of safe drinking water in rural areas is the responsibilty of the State Governments under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The efforts of the States are supplemented by the Central Government by giving financial assistance under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. In order to give a further boost and thrust to these Programmes, the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management has been launched as one of the five societal National Missions. The objectives of the Mission are to cover 2.27 lakh residual problem villages by the end of the Seventh Plan, supply of portable water at 40 litre per capita per day in all areas in addition 30 LPCD for cattle in desert areas, evolve cost efftctive technology mix to achieve these objectives within the constraint of plan allocation and take conservation measure for sustained supply of water. Under the Technology Mission there are 50 Mini Mission Project Areas (Districts) in various States/UTs and five Sub-Mission on Scientific Source finding and Conservation of water; control of brackishness; removal of excess iron; control of fluorosis and eradication of guinea-worm. The Mission has adopted an integrated and inter-disciplinary approach to deal with water management problems associated with supply of potable water in totality.

(b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with guidelines for implementation of ARWSP circulated to States/UTs, the